

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 27 through page 7, line 4 with the following paragraph:

--With that feature, in the replacement work for the swivel joint, the first tubes can be disconnected at a position higher than not only the upper end surface of the body, but also the ~~upper end~~bottom surface of the ~~body~~mainframe. Therefore, the work of disconnecting the tubes and the work of replacing the swivel joint can be both further facilitated.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 11, line 19 through page 12 line 1 with the following paragraph:

-- The upper end surface 12a of the body 12 of the swivel joint 11 has a substantially rectangular shape. A stopper ~~projection~~portion 16 is provided on the body 12 so as to project from a central portion of one longer side of the upper end surface 12a and come into a groove 18 formed in the stopper plate 17. The fittings 22 for connecting the tubes are provided eight in total, i.e., three on each of upper and lower sides, as viewed in the drawing, of the upper end surface 12a of the body 12, one on the side opposed to the stopper portion 16, and one on a cover 28 covering a central area of the upper end surface 12a.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 12, line 2 through line 28 with the following paragraph:

-- Returning to Fig. 1, a space in which a mount member for the swivel joint 11 is positioned is closed at the lower side thereof by both the mount plate 14 of the spindle 13 and the upper track frame 2a and at the outer peripheral side thereof by both the swivel race support 4 and the swivel race 3. Further, the space is covered at the upper side thereof by the swing structure main frame 1 having the opening 15. With this embodiment, since the fittings 22 for connecting the tubes (hoses) 21 are disposed on the upper end surface 12a of the body 12 in concentrated layout and the tubes 21 are also connected in concentrated layout as described above, there is no longer required a space between the opening 15 of the swing structure main frame 1 and the body 12, which has been necessary for the purpose of allowing passage of the tubes ~~424~~21 and enabling work, such as connection and disconnection of the tubes ~~424~~21, to be performed therein. In other words, as shown in Fig. 2, a gap (space) between the opening 15 of the swing structure main frame 1 and the body 12 can be made very small (as described later). As a result, the space in which the mount member for the swivel joint 11 is positioned is provided as a closed space having a very small opening even at the upper side as well. This is effective in greatly reducing the amount of earth/sand dropping onto the mount member for the swivel joint 11, and in drastically increasing the dust resistance of the swivel joint 11 and prolonging the service life of the grease bath 8.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 17, line 5 through line 14 with the following paragraph:

-- In Fig. 6, a swivel joint 111 comprises a body 112 and a spindle 13 rotatably inserted in the body 112. The spindle 13 is mounted to an upper track frame 2a by fixing a mount plate 14 to the edge of an opening 19 formed in the upper track frame 2a from below by bolts. The body 112 is positioned in an opening 115 formed in a swing structure main frame 1. A stopper projection 116 provided on the body ~~42-112~~ 112 is engaged with a stopper plate 117 fixed to the main frame 1 by bolts, whereby the body 112 is rotatable together with the swing structure main frame 1.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 17, line 26 through page 18 line 15 with the following paragraph:

-- An upper end surface of the body 112 of the swivel joint 111 has a substantially circular shape. The stopper projection 116 is projected from a lateral surface of the body 112 on the right side, as viewed in the drawing, so as to come into a groove 118 formed in the stopper plate 117. The fittings 122 for connecting the tubes are provided eight in total, i.e., four on the lower lateral surface, as viewed in the drawing, of the body 112, three (only two of which are shown in Fig. 57) on the upper lateral surface of the body 112, and one on a cover 128 disposed at a top of the body 112. Because the fittings 122 provided on the lateral surfaces of the body 112 are positioned below a bottom surface of the swing structure main frame 1 and are projected in certain lengths radially of the body 112, the opening 115 of the swing structure main frame 1 has an elongate shape in the up-and-down direction, as viewed in the drawing, corresponding to the amounts by which the fittings 122 are projected.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 18, line 16 through page 19 line 3 with the following paragraph:

-- Inner passages formed in the swivel joint 111 are identical to those shown in Fig. 3 except for the following points. The body 112 does not have the thicker wall portions 31, 32 shown in Fig. 3, and passages corresponding to the radial passages 43, 44 in the body 12 shown in Fig. 3 are formed in the body 112. Further, the radial passages in the body 112 are directly opened at the lateral surfaces of the body 112 to form ports, and the tube-connecting fittings 22 disposed on the upper end surface 12a of the body 112 are connected to those ports. With that arrangement, even when the body 112 is rotated relative to the spindle ~~443~~13, respective pairs of portholes on the body 112 side and portholes on the spindle ~~443~~13 side are always maintained in a communicated state, thereby holding communication between the tubes 121 on the body 112 side and the tubes 123 on the spindle ~~443~~13 side.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 19, line 4 through line 10 with the following paragraph:

-- Additionally, as in the structure shown in Fig. 3, a dust seal and an O-ring each contacting an outer peripheral surface of the spindle ~~443~~13 are fitted to an inner circumferential surface of the body 112 at a lower end thereof, to thereby prevent dust, including earth and sand, from entering the interior and prevent oil from leaking from the interior.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 19, line 11 through lines 26 with the following paragraph:

-- In the known structure shown in Figs. 6 and 7, the tube-connecting fittings 122 are connected to the lateral surfaces of the body 112 at positions below the bottom surface of the swing structure main frame 1. This means the necessity of a space between the opening 115 of the main frame 1 and the body 112 for allowing passage of the tubes 121 and enabling work, such as connection and disconnection of the tubes 121, to be performed therein. In other words, a large gap (space) is required between the opening 115 of the main frame 1 and the body 112. As a result, earth and sand are dropped and accumulated on the mount plate ~~444~~14 of the spindle ~~443~~13, which serves as a mount member for the swivel joint 111, from above the swing structure main frame 1. Thus, the known structure easily allows dust, including earth/sand and water, to enter a lower-end sliding portion of the body 112 with respect to the spindle ~~443~~13.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 29, line 27 through page 20 line 9 with the following paragraph:

-- Although the dust seal is disposed in the lower-end sliding portion of the body 112 with respect to the spindle ~~443~~13 to prevent intrusion of dust, including earth/sand and water, it is often hard in fact to completely prevent intrusion of the dust. The dust seal is intended to primarily prevent intrusion of small solid matters (dust) and has a difficulty in completely preventing intrusion of water. There is reported a trouble case where muddy water or the like intruded through the lower-

end sliding portion of the body 112 with respect to the spindle 3-13 and caused galling of the swivel joint due to rusting.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 20, line 24 through page 21, line 21 with the following paragraph:

-- In contrast, according to this embodiment, as described above, the fittings 22 for connecting the tubes (hoses) 21 extending to the hydraulic equipment disposed on the swing structure, such as the valve apparatuses (directional control valves) for control of the travel motors and the blade, are disposed on the upper end surface 12a of the body 12 in concentrated layout, and the tubes 21 are also connected in concentrated layout. Hence, there is no longer required a space between the opening 15 of the swing structure main frame 1 and the body 12, which has been necessary for the purpose of allowing passage of the tubes ~~424~~21 and enabling work, such as connection and disconnection of the tubes ~~424~~21, to be performed therein. In other words, as shown in Fig. 2, the gap (space) between the opening 15 of the main frame 1 and the body 12 can be made much smaller than that in the known structure shown in Fig. 7. As a result, the amount of earth/sand dropping onto the mount plate 14 of the spindle 13, which serves as the mount member for the swivel joint 11, from above the swing structure main frame 1 is greatly reduced, and the amount of earth/sand accumulated there is also reduced correspondingly. It is therefore possible to greatly reduce intrusion of dust, including water and earth/sand, to the lower-end sliding portion of the body 12 with respect to

the spindle 13. Thus, dust resistance of the swivel joint 11 can be drastically increased.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 21, line 26 through page 22, line 8 with the following paragraph:

-- Further, since the tube-connecting fittings 22 are disposed on the upper end surface 12a of the body 12 in concentrated layout and the tubes 21 are also connected in concentrated layout, an effective outer diameter of the body, including the amounts by which the fittings ~~122~~22 are projected, is reduced in comparison with that in the known structure, and an overall size of the swivel joint structure including tube-connecting portions can be reduced. In addition, since the fittings 22 and the tubes 21 can be positioned within an area defined by the outer diameter of the body 12, compact layout of the tubes 21 is realized.--